

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical access system that sends packets in a given time slot more efficiently without wasting bandwidth.

5 The uplink channel from slave devices to a master device is divided into time slots. The sending slave device reads out upstream packets from its send packet buffer when an assigned time slot comes. If the maximum frame size is reached in the middle of a packet, the slave device  
10 suspends further reading until a next assigned time slot comes. The packets are sent to the master device, each being set off by a start and end delimiters. Detection of a start delimiter causes the master device to begin writing each received data word into a receive packet  
15 buffer, which is terminated by the end delimiter of that packet. Received packets are retrieved from their memory locations specified by a read address that includes the sender's slave device number.

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